

The Evening Times

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1899.

A FUGITIVE NEGRO MURDERER DESPERATELY RESISTS CAPTURE

The Boyds Assassin Kills a Wash- ington Police Sergeant.

Barricaded in a House at Georgetown, He Holds Fifty Policemen and Two Thousand Citi- zens at Bay—Yields to Threats of Being Burned Out.

Humphrey Brown, the negro who murdered Louis Rosenstein at Boyd's, Md., last Saturday, killed Sergeant Fritz Passau today while resisting capture. Policeman A. R. Gow was wounded.

The second crime occurred a few minutes before noon today at Fowler's Hill, near Georgetown. The negro held fifty policemen and 2,000 citizens at bay for an hour and a half.

Probably a hundred shots were fired in efforts to kill or disable the criminal. He was under cover and was not hit. He surrendered when the police prepared to set fire to the house in which he was concealed. When the announcement was made

that Brown was captured wild cheers went up from the crowd that crowned the top of the hill near the scene of the tragedy and all other points of vantage. A thousand men cried: "Kill him! Hang him! Lynch him! Shoot him!" A hundred hands tore a long stout clothesline from its pole in a nearby yard, and a noose was made on one end.

When the crowd of police appeared at the door of the house, this was understood to herald the coming of the murderer. The shouting and cheering of the crowd grew louder and more vengeful and a vast throng of men surged forward. A fence that stood in the way of the crowd offered no resistance.

It was swept away. When the black face of the terrified criminal appeared at the doorway, the cries of "Lynch him, kill him!" became fiercer and more determined. A mob of strong men bent on vengeance surrounded the place and tried to tear the captive from the police.

The squad having Brown in custody, called loudly that a patrol wagon, which was in waiting, should come nearer and the police beat back the vengeful crowd with clubs. There was a wild scene. Added to the din of curses, threats, and bloodthirsty yells, a few citizens were shooting off cartridges which they had hoped to expend on the fugitive.

The police formed themselves into what looked like a flying wedge and with Brown in their midst, practically beat their way through the frantic crowd.

The patrol wagon groaned under the weight of the police who climbed in to protect the murderer, and other policemen beat away the maddened mob that crowded in front of the patrol horse and clutched at the wheels of the wagon to stay its course.

Gradually the opposition to the police weakened and the throng fell in behind the patrol wagon which moved slowly along the muddy road at the base of Fowler's Hill and thence into the Conduit Road, which was blocked by teams and people.

The crowd followed the man to the station. There the wild procession halted. The police got their man inside the station with difficulty and the crowd blocked the street outside.

At the station he was identified as Humphrey Brown, by a man whose name is Metzger, who lives in Montgomery county, and who at one time employed Brown.

THE MURDER OF PASSAU.

Efforts of the Sergeant and Police- man Gow to Capture Brown.

Lieutenant Swindells, of Georgetown station, received information early this morning that Brown had been seen in the vicinity of Fowler's Hill, and he immediately started after him. Precinct Detective Burroughs located the man in the house at the top of the hill and Sergeant Passau, with Policeman Gow, was sent up to the house to arrest the fugitive. The other policemen in the party were distributed in such a manner that every exit was covered and the building was completely surrounded.

Passau and Gow knocked on the door of the house and waited a few moments before pushing it open. From inside the front room sounds of shuffling feet were heard and the creak of boards was plainly detected by the waiting officers. They opened the door and walked in the front room. Just as they entered the building, Brown started up stairs and the policemen caught sight of his disappearing form as he turned round at the head of the stairs. They called upon him to halt but he paid no attention to their cries and continued on his way. The two police officers then drew their revolvers and followed the fugitive up the steps.

When they arrived at the head of the stairway they did not find Brown, but heard a slight noise, and on looking up saw his feet disappearing through a small scuttle in the ceiling, which opened into an attic about three feet in height. Sergeant Passau then called again to the man to come down, stating that they had him covered with their revolvers. He replied that if the officers would wait until he put on his shoes he would come down. Passau told the man that he must come down immediately without any shoes.

The negro then thrust his hand, holding a 38-calibre revolver, through the opening in the ceiling and opened fire on the officers below. The first shot struck Gow in the left breast, but the angle at which the man fired was too great and the ball only passed through the policeman's clothing. Another shot from the murderer's weapon was fired, and this time it struck Sergeant Passau. The sergeant turned when he was shot and started to descend the stairs. Then the second shot was fired, and it also struck the sergeant.

Both bullets took effect, one of them passing through the right lung and the

other entering the left lung. Neither of the bullets came out. Sergeant Passau was about half way down the steps when he was shot and he fell the remainder of the distance. Gow opened fire on the negro as soon as the first shot was fired, but none of the shots took effect. A last bullet from the murderer's revolver struck the policeman on the finger and rendered his arm useless and then Brown withdrew into the attic.

All of the bullets that were fired by Gow were directed at the ceiling over which the murdered was supposed to be standing, but they did not pass through the thick walls. The house was originally built for an ice-house and all of the walls were made double. In the spaces between, charcoal had been packed to preserve the ice. It is thought that the balls all entered this packing and did not pass into the flooring of the room above.

Passau was taken out, and as life was not yet extinct he was hurried to the Georgetown Hospital where powerful stimulants and restoratives were applied. They had no effect, however, and a short time after reaching the hospital the police sergeant died. Gow was also brought to the hospital, and, after his hand was dressed, he returned to the scene of the shooting.

Passau was a general favorite in the precinct and the news of his death was received with great regret by almost every resident of Georgetown. A great crowd thronged the streets leading to the station and many anxious enquiries concerning him were directed to the officers in charge.

STORY OF THE SIEGE.

Police Reserves Called in to Help Dislodge the Assassin.

A telephone message was sent in, describing the condition of affairs at Fowler's Hill. Police reserves from the Seventh

precinct were sent forward and men from other parts of the precinct were called off their beats. Headquarters was called upon for help, and all the available force there was hurried to the scene. The news was spreading and crowds were forming along Conduit Road and on the hills above the scene of the siege.

Pending the arrival of re-enforcements Lieutenant Swindells, Precinct Detective Burroughs and Policeman Gow, with several citizens, covered with their guns all the doors and windows of the house that they might kill the murderer should he attempt to escape.

The reserves came up and some stout-hearted policemen went into the house, but did not ascend at first above the ground floor. Other policemen stood behind trees and fences with drawn guns. As the crowd of spectators swelled and more reserves came up, a ladder was raised against the garret of the house.

A pistol shot sounded in the garret. This was answered by a scattering volley from the weapons carried by citizens and police. Another shot sounded in the garret. Then another and another. The murderer was burning powder, and the crowd with shouts and yells was making reply. The house was being bombarded in the front, rear, and on both sides.

Every time a man started to mount the ladder that had been raised, the warning pistol of the murderer rang out. At this time suggestions were coming from the crowd. They were yelling, "Burn the house," "Blow it up with dynamite," "Pull it down."

Two men armed with shot guns stood behind trees and watched the top of the house with their weapons raised and cocked. One man covered the house from another quarter with an ancient musket and one modern Winchester was aimed, ready to do its duty should the besieged man show his head.

Policemen in uniform and in civilian dress moved around the place with drawn pistols, always keeping a furtive eye on the upper part of the structure. Every now and then a gun would fire, as one of the besiegers thought he saw the besieged man. This shot would be the signal for a scattering, sputtering volley, which seemed to riddle the top part of the old house.

The lower floor was swarming with policemen and a group of spectators stood around a great pool of dull colored, thickening blood that marked the spot where Sergeant Passau fell.

Lieutenant Pearson arrived on the scene at 1 o'clock, and after a consultation it was determined that the better plan to get at the murderer was to fire the house. All the furniture and domestic utensils were removed from an adjoining house, and an old mattress, shavings, and oil were made ready to fire the place.

Lieutenant Pearson, with Detectives Horn, Parham, and Gallaher, and Policemen Howlett, Hazel, and two others ascended to the second story of the house and one man began to pile the kindling in a corner while the others covered the opening in the ceiling, which led to the garret, with their guns.

As the torch was about to be applied and the murderer had been warned of his impending fate, his feet dropped through the garret opening and the policemen seized him and pulled him through. He was promptly overpowered and cried: "Don't kill me." "We have him! We've caught him!" sounded through the old house and the cry was taken up by the crowd outside.

THE DEAD SERGEANT.

**An Efficient Police Officer and Very Popular With the Men.
Sergeant Fritz Passau was one of the**

most popular men in the Police Department and was every inch a gentleman. He saw good service in the Eighth and Seventh precincts, and particularly in the way of breaking up disorderly assemblages of negroes in some of the Georgetown camps, as the settlements are called.

Sergeant Passau was born in Germany, on July 13, 1857. He served in the army and in 1888 came to Washington. He was appointed a member of the police force on July 13, of that year. He was promoted to be a sergeant of the second class, September 1, 1892. He was made acting sergeant August 17, 1898, and on September 16, of the same year, he became a full sergeant.

All his associates speak of him in the highest terms, both as an officer and as a man and deep regret is felt at his loss.

THE MURDERER INTERVIEWED.

He Refuses to Answer Questions Concerning His Maryland Crime.

When placed in the cell, the murderer exhibited remarkable coolness. When asked if his name was not Brown he replied: "My name is Taylor."

"Humphrey Taylor?" was asked.

"Yes," he replied.

"Did you not kill some people in Maryland?"

To this question Brown did not make any reply.

"What were you arrested for?" was next asked.

"For shooting a policeman."

Taylor was cut on the nose and his left eye was somewhat swollen.

AT THE DISTRICT BUILDING.

News of Sergeant Passau's Death Received With Deep Regret.

When the news of the death of Sergeant Passau reached the municipal offices at the District Building deep regret was felt at the loss of so valuable a member of the police force. Hurried conferences were held without the least delay and Major Sylvester and Inspector of Detectives Boardman joined hands in working with their men to secure the immediate capture of the murderer. It was agreed that if the man could not be gotten out of the building in which he had barricaded himself in any other way the structure should be burned to the ground and the desired result secured in that manner.

Shortly after 1 o'clock Major Sylvester conferred with Commissioner Wight, who has immediate supervision of police and detective matters, and suggested that the house be burned as a last resort. It was not known whether this could be done under the law, and at 1:15 o'clock Major Sylvester and Commissioner Wight left the District Building and crossed over to the office of S. T. Thomas, Attorney for the District. They consulted him relative to the legal phases of the question. At this conference it was decided to burn the house down in order to drive the negro out, if he could not be ejected in any other way. It was thought better to burn the dwelling than to risk the lives of any more men by sending them into the house.

Within twenty minutes after Major Sylvester entered Commissioner Wight's office, both were in a carriage hastening to the scene of action. Before leaving, Major Sylvester sent a telephone message to Georgetown, directing that the house be burned as a last resort.

At 1:25 o'clock the news of the capture of the negro reached the District Building and Police Headquarters, telephone messages having been sent there by various persons who were within reach of instruments in the vicinity of Fowler Hill and the west end of Georgetown.

It was stated that preparations had been made for the burning out of the culprit, and that while the blankets were being placed around the building Gaines, the colored constable from Rosslyn, had talked to the negro through a window and persuaded him to surrender rather than be burned alive. A feeling of relief ran all through the District Building and municipal offices when these facts were learned.

COMING TO CLAIM BROWN.

Prosecuting Attorney Kilgour on His Way to Washington.

Rockville, Md., 2:30 p. m.—Prosecuting Attorney Kilgour, of Montgomery county, left here on the 2:22 train for Washington. He will endeavor to have Brown brought here this afternoon. The feeling all over the county is intense.

EXCITEMENT AT BOYDS.

Citizens Want to Come Here to Lynch Brown.

Boys, Md., May 17.—There is great excitement here over the capture of Brown in Washington. When the report reached here that he had killed a police sergeant there and was in the hands of the officers, and which was subsequently confirmed, there was then greater indignation among the people.

Many persons organized a lynching party and wanted to go to Washington on the first train. The citizens here will be greatly disappointed should the authorities of the District of Columbia hold Brown there and try him for the killing of the police sergeant.

An attempt will be made to have him brought to Maryland for trial for the murder of Louis Rosenstein first. Excitement is running so high throughout this vicinity that if Brown is brought here he will certainly be lynched.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CASE.

A Stubborn Effort to Be Made to Try Brown Here.

The case of Brown will be laid before the judicial authorities at once and the matter referred to the grand jury for immediate action.

The Governor of Maryland will make a requisition for the delivery of Brown, but this, it is said, will be vigorously opposed by the district attorney, who will insist on his being tried here.

The chances are that the trial for the murder will be set for next week, immediately after the grand jury finds the indictment for the murder of Police Sergeant Passau. It is thought the grand jury will be instructed to take up the case at once. There will be a warm legal contest over the possession of the prisoner. The authorities here will make a stubborn fight to hold him and in the opinion of many of the best lawyers this is the place where he should be tried first.

Money Found on the Prisoner.

The prisoner was searched at the station and \$192 in bills, \$8.59 in small coin, and a gold watch were found upon his person.